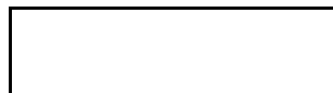## THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
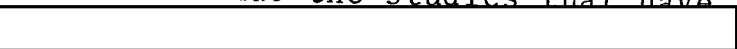
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

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4 NOV 1975

The Honorable Albert C. Hall
Assistant Secretary for Intelligence
Department of Defense
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Al:

Your letter of 6 October suggests improving ⬚   25X1
responsiveness during crisis situations. Your interest in
examining ways to improve Community performance in this
area is one we share and one reflected in our current actions
and planning.

A critical feature of the kinds of crisis situations
which we are most likely to face in the near and midterm,
it seems to me, is the necessity that intelligence cover
all facets of the crisis, military, political and even
economic. The National Security Council system establishes
the Washington Special Action Group (WSAG) as the vehicle
for coordinated policy making. I believe it essential
therefore that the tasking of our intelligence structure
stem from that level rather than from being delegated down
to any single agency which would be apt to stress its own
requirements over those of outsiders. Thus, I would hope we
would continue the studies that have been in progress on how
25X1 ⬚, and even our existing
intelligence machinery, closer to the WSAG level. I think
this can be done through WSAG working groups, a vigorous
National Intelligence Officer, and the varieties of systems
established to insure that our Intelligence Community works
as a whole rather than as parts. Once the priorities in
tasking are established at this level, of course, the mechan-
ical work of operating the satellites can indeed be delegated
down and subordinate tasking assumed within categories or
allocations decided above.

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Future arrangements for controlling collection, and, equally as important, processing and dissemination, will have to provide for speedy weighing of priorities from various governmental entities. In a period of actual or imminent crisis, there are bound to be several different sets of intelligence consumers--at national and theater levels--and each consumer will legitimately consider his needs to carry the top priority and to be the most time-urgent. Anything that the governmental entities can do to define and categorize priorities will be welcome. DoD's focusing of its requirements within the NMCC is a very positive step in this direction.

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I am concerned that policy makers and intelligence users do not well understand the Community's current and projected arrangements for meeting the time-critical needs of all concerned. To accomplish this, I have asked the Intelligence Community Staff to develop ways to increase the visibility of those arrangements. As we widen understanding, we will identify weaknesses and seek improvement where improvement is required.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

W. E. Colby

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